

## **Subcommittee discussion topics**

May 8, 2006

### **Housing Assistance**

- ☐ More government-subsidized affordable housing and more landlords willing to rent to offenders are needed
- ☐ More nursing-home style housing for geriatrics
- ☐ Prerelease centers and their screening committee are reluctant to accept of sex offenders
- ☐ Housing is considered greatest unmet need of the poor
- ☐ Offenders often find available and affordable housing concentrated in high crime areas of cities, offering tempting opportunities to re-offend

### **Mental health treatment**

- ☐ More group homes capable of housing mentally ill and developmentally disabled offenders
- ☐ Ensure continuous and consistent care from prison to the community
- ☐ Long waits for service in the community
- ☐ Illegal drug use often negates medicine taken for mental illness

### **Drug addiction treatment**

- ☐ Long waiting lists inside and outside of prison
- ☐ More treatment opportunities needed

### **Treatment courts**

- ☐ Stigma attached to mental health courts and frequency of co-occurring problems (addiction and mental disorders) indicate need for uniform specialty court combining both
- ☐ More such courts needed because treatment works

### **Single male offenders**

- ☐ Women with families have more services available (legal help, housing assistance food banks, etc)
- ☐ More effective parenting classes needed at Montana State Prison
- ☐ Training in life skills (ie, balancing a checkbook, paying bills) needed in prison and out

### **Female offenders**

- ☐ Effective programs exist for helping inmates prepare for return to the role of parent
- ☐ More case management needed before women inmates are released

**Probation/parole**

- ☐ Increased supervision can keep offenders law-abiding
- ☐ More officers needed; frequency of contact with offenders encourages good behavior
- ☐ Relaxed restrictions on medical paroles needed
- ☐ Allow Board of Pardons and Parole to place offenders in intensive supervision program (ISP) without approval of local screening committees

**Social services**

- ☐ Probation/parole officers need greater awareness of what's available
- ☐ More eligibility work needed while offenders still in prison
- ☐ Institutional parole officers often overwhelmed with workload of helping inmates prepare release plans
- ☐ More communication and cooperation between corrections and DPHHS

**Employment Assistance**

- ☐ Sporadic availability of jobs around the state
- ☐ More job training needed
- ☐ Transportation to and from a job is critical to staying employed